

Investigation Report No. 423/16

Date: 30 July 2018

Serious marine casualty

**Collision between the MV MERIDIAN, MV NEWYORKER and MSC DIANA
at the Stromkaje, Bremerhaven, on 20 November 2016 at 0153**

1 Summary

At 0153 on 20 November 2016, the large container vessels NEWYORKER and MSC DIANA were moored one behind the other at the container terminal in Bremerhaven. Without any discernible alteration in course or speed, the coaster MERIDIAN first sailed into the port side of the NEWYORKER, pushed along her toward the stern into the gap between the two container vessels, where she then rammed the pier with her bow. In the prevailing situation, it seems that the rising tide played a role in that it pushed the MERIDIAN against the MSC DIANA's bulbous bow with her starboard side. Shortly after, the MERIDIAN was able to manoeuvre clear again in a sternward direction.

This contact with the bulbous bow left no visible damage on the MSC DIANA. However, it did result in indentation with cracking on the starboard side of the MERIDIAN. The MERIDIAN's crew was able to stop the slight water ingress that followed.

The shell plating of the NEWYORKER was dented several times but no cracking was caused.

The collision with the pier caused heavy damage to the MERIDIAN's fore section. The damage sustained by the pier's structure was so heavy that operation of the container gantry crane on top of it had to be suspended temporarily.

There were neither physical injuries nor environmental pollution.

2 Safety Recommendation

The following safety recommendations do not attribute a presumption of blame or liability in respect of type, number or sequence.

Owner

The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation recommends that the owner of the MERIDIAN consider certain emergency scenarios, such as engine or steering gear failure, record the appropriate actions and keep them visible on the bridge.